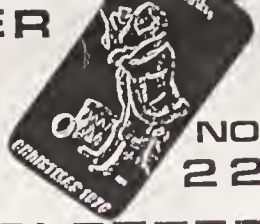
SILVER ART NEWSLETTER



NO. 22

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Ed Lanty - NWC
1029 W. High St
Bryan, OH
45306

Merry Christmas 1984

P.O. Box 777
Fountain, CO 80817

SILVER ART

International

P.O. BOX 777 · FOUNTAIN, CO 80817

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

As another holiday season is upon us, it seems hard to believe that another year has passed. I guess the days go quickly when you're busy or having fun! In our case, the last year has given us a lot of the first and a little of the second! In fact, I've been so busy during the past two months that I haven't had the time to do the research and preparation for the usual articles and features in the newsletter.

In their stead, I hope you will be satisfied with a long "state of the hobby" letter which will recap the events of 1984 and give some projected events of great import in 1985. I apologize for my shortcoming and promise that the next newsletter will be back to normal!

On the commercial side, this issue will feature our consignments. One of our consignors has graciously lowered his prices on choice Greathouse material for Christmas! If there's a place on your shopping list for art bars, this is the time to get them! We are also featuring a SELL OUT on another consignment. We've had this gentleman's bars for a long time and are selling the remaining balance at our cost as a service to him. Hope Santa treats you right so that you can get in on the BARGAINS! Christmas Specials are only available through January 4th, so get your orders in now.

Wishing you and yours the very best of holiday seasons!

Will Rossman

'84-'85 STATE OF THE HOBBY

1984 can best be characterized as another rebuilding year for the silver art bar hobby. On the new issues scene, no previous producers dropped out and several new sources of limited edition pieces appeared. Additionally, more and more individuals and groups are commissioning the striking of their own private issues.

"Old" art bars have held their own in 1984 and despite a slight levelling of prices towards year's end, some record prices have been realized. On the whole, premium art bars have maintained premium prices, while middle-of-the-road bars have softened with declining silver prices.

Silver bullion buyers have endured a rough year, with the spot price never really seeing double figures. As I write this, the market has slipped under the $7 level for the first time since 1982 and some analysts see it going down to $6 before it levels out.

1985 presents some pretty bright outlooks for the hobby. Many new bars will be produced and there is definitely a new catalogue coming out although no issue date has been announced as yet. More and more collectors and dealers are coming into the hobby and there should be still more in 1985. Competition for quality bars amongst collectors and competition to sell amongst dealers should result in higher prices for the true rarities and more reasonable prices on lesser pieces. This will be very healthy for the hobby as true market values will finally be established through the "free market" system. All in all, I think 1985 will be a banner year for collectors and dealers alike!

Let's take a look at some of the stories which characterize the past and coming years.

OLD FACES - NEW BARS

Tom Greathouse has continued to produce his popular "personality" bars at a rate of two issues every few months. Mintages are limited to a maximum of 125 silver and 125 bronze and are struck by the WORLD WIDE MINT. The bars are expensive, but considering the quality and rarity of the bars, they are WELL WORTH IT!

Harvey Chew's "SILVER MINE" is also continuing to produce high quality, limited edition bars struck by WORLD WIDE. Although he's been somewhat quiet on other topics, Harvey still markets a commemerative bar for every flight of the famous "Space Shuttles." Harvey also publishes a bi-monthly price list featuring new bars and rounds, Greathouse material and a smaller selection of older bars.

Duane Spellman (USSC - the Mint(TM)) continues as a driving force behind the art bar hobby. Currently available from The Mint are two 100 mintage enamelled olympic pieces which Duane says are so beautiful they'll revitalize the hobby! Also available are two Christmas bars, one a serially numbered edition of 100. Duane is so pleased

with the enamelled bars that he's planning annual enamelled issues to commemerate the "Super Bowl," "Indy 500," "Kentucky Derby," "World Series" and "NBA Championship." WAY TO GO , DUANE!!!

Doyle Francis (Doyle's Coin Palace) is involved with Masterpiece Medallions/Golden State Mint. While to my knowledge they have not yet produced any real low mintage pieces, they hace done a number of middle-of-the-road bars of a "regional" nature that may be difficult to obtain outside the primary marketing area.

NEW FACES - NEW BARS

The RAINBOW MINT is a new operation from ILR Silver featuring hand painted, limited edition bars that are not available in silver form. ILR will continue to hand paint silver bars from SILVERTOWNE and other mints that appeal to them.

MARITIME MINT (that's us, folks!) produced two limited edition art bars in 1984 featuring the USS Kitty Hawk and USS New Jersey. We had planned on finishing more of the series, but time restrictions cut us short. For 1985, we will continue with the "World's Greatest Warships" series and, hopefully, will branch out into some other areas. We're bursting with ideas, but need to see how much time and money are available to develop them with!

MANY FACES - OLD BARS

Ed Lantz - Northwest Coin Center of Bryan, OH. I've talked to Ed quite a few times recently and he's a nice guy! His background is similar to mine - coin dealer with a personal interest in art bars that grew. Folks, Ed has got a lot of art bars and some of his prices are pretty darn good! Ed has sponsored two local interest art bars struck by the Crown Mint. One is the Ohio bar with the Cardinal that ILR hand painted a portion of. The other commerates the local "Egg'n Fest"- another nice bar. Ed is also interested in an idea that a lot of us have been mulling around - a new national club for silver art bar collectors! One possible result of this would be a national convention in 1985. I like this idea, too, and would be happy to receive your ideas and input concerning a national club.

Patti Moreno - Patti doesn't do mail order, but if you make any of the major coin shows nationwide, you'll probably meet Patti and her husband, Louie, under the banner of Western Numismatics, Rowland Heights, CA. Patti does the bars and Louie the coins - check them out!

AAMAC - Portland, OR - publishes regular price lists of silver art. I've only gotten one, but they were offering a lot of art bars, rounds and other related collectibles. Check for their ads in Coin World.

Karen Waldner - Grover, MO - publishes less frequent price lists, but they generally contain some pretty nice material!!!

GREAT ART BAR EVENT OF THE YEAR 1984!

Without question, the greatest art bar event of 1984 was the re-surfacing of a huge hoard of Green Country Mint bars in the midwest. As it happens, we had done some research on this hoard when it initially was purchased and were wondering where it had gone. As such, we can give you the beginning and end of the story. You'll just have to speculate on what happened in between.

It's a well known fact that Bill Mc Kenzie's bars had their ups and downs. With the highest issue price in the industry, even the quality of the appearance and the rarity of issues couldn't sell them all. This was even more acute with the gold plated and antique silver issues. Bill's father was involved and financed most of the issues. When he dropped out, Bill was in a bind to put out the remaining ideas on his drawing board. At some point in 1979, he sold out his entire inventory of earlier issues to Richard Allgire of Lakeview, OH. This sale resulted in two sales lists. The first one was pretty reasonable and offered bars for almost straight across trades against anything in the (then) new catalogue. The second list, put out during the silver peak of 1980, has become a memorable joke with everyone who's seen it. No bar was priced under $150 and it went up to a high of around $2500 for a gold plated Elvis bar with SN#1! Needless to say - silver rush or not - that sale was not a huge success.

Recently, a coin dealer in Chicago died and when his vault was opened, there were Bill's bars. When the estate was dispersed, these found their way to Ed Lantz, who subsequently passed on a portion of them to ILR Silver - but that's another story.

Where were the bars in between? We don't know, but if any of you do, we'd like to hear about it!

GREAT ART BAR EVENT OF THE YEAR 1985!

We've been dealing in art bars for almost two years now and the question we've heard most frequently during that time is, "When will a new catalogue be coming out?" Finally, it looks like there's a light at the end of the tunnel!

As with the 1979 catalogue, the new edition will be the result of an immense amount of effort on the part of many people. Primary among these are the late John Knox and Bill Cassin, historians extraordinaire! Historians are a special breed of person. In addition to building personal collections, their curioscity, perserverance, patience and absolute dedication to the hobby lead them to seek and ferret out every possible tidbit of information on art bars and to record them for posterity. John Knox devoted the last ten years of his life in this pursuit. In the words of his close friend, Steve Rood, John lived and breathed art bars during every waking moment. His records are the most complete and detailed anywhere and with them, he leaves behind a legacy that will never be forgotten. Bill Cassin

and his wife, Nita, have also been educational giants in the hobby, writing regular articles for the art bar periodicals of the 70's. Their record keeping has also been meticulous, recording notes for each bar on file cards. During the past few years, Bill has been computerizing these records for easier access and organization. He has integrated John's records into his computer program and this program forms the basis for the new catalogue.

Other well-known contributors should not be overlooked. Steve Rood and Duane Spellman have lent valuable experience and assistance, and many others have contributed information on new bars and corrections of old catalogue errors and omissions. John Devine (Death Valley Mint - Heigh Ho Silver) is out of art bars now, but owns a printing company which will publish the catalogue.

Photoplates have been started, but it's hard to say at this point when all preparations will be complete. This catalogue is one of the key, necessary ingredients to revitalizing our hobby. Hopefully, it will be available in time to be the great event of 1985!

SHORT TAKES

1. Our post office changed buildings and of the eleven post office box numbers that aren't in the new place, ours is one of them!(Wish I had that kind of luck with the lottery!) Our new P.O. Box number is 777.

2. Last Chance on the B.H. Mayer "Locomotives" and "Patron Saints" sets at $480 and $450. We're holding the order til January 4th - no longer!

3. We WANT your WANT LIST! This is our yearly reminder to you that we still do most of our business by personalized service and most of the really tough bars don't get listed in the catalogue because they are already gone! Even if you're interested in less expensive pieces, we make the same amount of effort in finding them! Give us a try!

4. We are also interested in purchasing or trading for top quality art bars. If you've got something we need for a want list, we'll give you more than a fair shake!

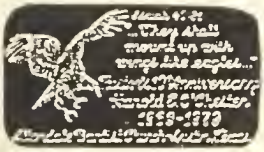
5. We have exactly 5 of the 1979 An Indexed Guidebook to Silver Art Bars remaining. This is probably the last chance to get one because they'll probably be gone before the next newsletter comes out. Price is still the issue price of $28.50 + $1.50 postage.

· GREATHOUSE ·

The next three pages feature matched serial number silver & bronze sets of virtually all of Tom and Nancy Greathouse's personality bars. These matched sets are extremely difficult to find for the older bars, as most are in permanent collections. We are happy to announce that we have several of each set available. Mintages shown are for (silver)/(bronze).

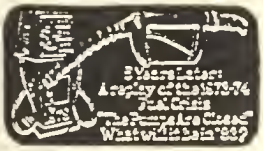
HE IS RISEN
MOTA-5,5B
MINTAGE 175/150
$75.00

IN THE GARDEN
TRG-8,8B
MINTAGE 150/150
$75.00



PASTOR'S 10TH
TRG-7,7B
MINTAGE 68/350
$65.00

AMERICA, I LOVE YOU
MOTA-8,8B
MINTAGE 160/150
$70.00



PUMPS ARE CLOSED
TRG-16,16B
MINTAGE 130/100
$75.00

BING CROSBY
MOTA-2,2B
MINTAGE 295/250
$65.00

CHRISTMAS '78
TRG-5,5B
MINTAGE 225/200
$75.00

CHRISTMAS '79
TRG-20,20B
MINTAGE 175/85
$75.00

...more matched sets!

Roy Rogers-Dale Evans/
Gene Autry
TRG-1,1B,1A
3 Bar Set
silver,bronze,aluminum

Two bars in one! Full die obverse & reverse!

Mintage 200/200/200

$85.00

John Wayne '78
"A Hero For All Generations"
MOTA-7,7B

Mintage 225/165

$80.00

John Wayne '79
"A Great American"
TRG-14,14B

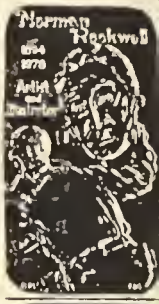
Mintage 320/260

$75.00

Norman Rockwell
"Triple Portrait"
TRG-10, 10B

Mintage 185/165

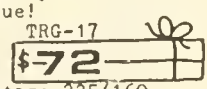
$70.00



Donald's 45th

Rarer than Mickey's 50th, this bar should quickly catch it in value!

TRG-17



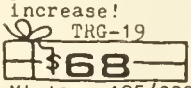
Mintage 225/160

$85.00

Popeye's 50th

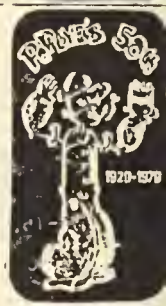
Another popular comic figure with excellent potential for value increase!

TRG-19



Mintage 185/200

$80.00



Teddy Bear

One of Greathouse's most popular bars ever!
TRG-11,11B

Mintage 175/150

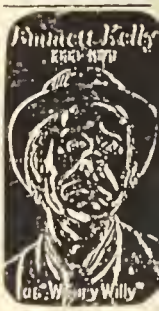
$75.00

Emmett Kelly

"World's Greatest Clown"
TRG-12,12B

Mintage 175/150

$70.00



...and MORE!

YOUR CHOICE

Jack Benny
MOTA-6,6B
Mintage 175/150
$65.00

Abbot & Costello (I)
TRG-2V1,2V1B
Mintage 175/150
$65.00

James Cagney
TRG-3,4B
Mintage 175/150
$65.00

Bergen/McCarthy
TRG-4,4B
Mintage 175/150
$65.00

Guy Lombardo
MOTA-3,3B
Mintage 200/150
$65.00

Charlie Chaplain
MOTA-4,4B
Mintage 215/150
$65.00

Jimmy Durante
MOTA-9,9B
Mintage 175/150
$65.00

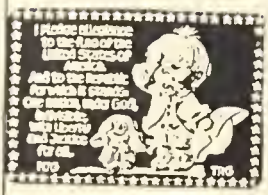
Jerry Lewis
MOTA-10,10B
Mintage 175/150
$65.00

and even MORE!!

MICKEY MOUSE
TRG-9/9B
MTG.250/170
$95.00 Pair

ONLY 3 SETS LEFT!

$80



PLEDGE ALLEGIA
HAM-32(640)/32
MTG.180/100

ALL SILVER BARS ARE SN #18

BRONZE BARS HAVE NO SN.

OOPS!
Forgot to Xerox this One

ELVIS TYPE II (w/dates)
MOTA-IV/IVB MTG 125/125
$120.00
SILVER & BRONZE SET

$100

ONE SET ONLY!

UPS & DOWNS
HAM-211/211B
MTG.275/100

ONE SET ONLY!

$150

SHIRLEY TEMPLE
TRG-13/13B
MTG.175/150
$75.00 Pair

$65

KEEP SMILING
HAM212/212B
MTG.240/100

A VERY RARE MATCHED SET OF THE ONLY 3 TRG BARS STRUCK BY THE HAMILTON MINT.

CONSIGNMENT CLOSEOUT

As mentioned earlier, we are trying to close out the consignment of a long time friend and consignor. To move his bars, we have reduced the prices to our cost. There are some real bargains here, so order and enjoy a break on us! Like everyone else, we don't like to take a loss, so a little help with the postage and insurance on these would be appreciated.

DEATH VALLEY MINT		
USSC-273,274	Democratic/Republican Parties - Matched Sh.	$45.00
GREATHOUSE PRODUCTIONS		
ZM 3-8	American Bicentennial - 6 bars - SM#109	$150.00
ZM-10	Nobody's Perfect - Cancelled	$ 35.00
USSC-174	Dove of Peace	$ 20.00
USSC-174C	Dove of Peace - Cancelled MTG 10	$ 60.00
USSC-175C	Bluebird of Happiness - Cancelled MTG 10	$ 60.00
USSC-176C	Lovebirds - Cancelled MTG 10	$ 60.00
HAMILTON MINT		
HAM-204	Early Easter Morn	$ 17.00
HAM-208	A Father's world	$ 17.00
LINCOLN MINT		
LM-1	Comet Kohoutek	$ 22.50
THE MINT (TM)		
USSC-268V	Christmas '76	$ 20.00
USSC-271	Montreal Olympics	$ 20.00
VALLEY FORGE MINT		
VFM-1	First Silver Ingot 1973	$ 18.00
VFM-2	First Silver Ingot 1974	$ 22.00
U.S.SILVER CORP.		
USSC-115	Camel Rentals	$ 18.00
USSC-118	Ford In Your Future	$ 17.00
USSC-120	Instant Cash Rebate	$ 17.00
USSC-121	Third Party Movement	$ 17.00
USSC-157C	Happiness Is - Cancelled	$ 35.00
USSC-160	Buccaneers	$ 14.00
USSC-199	USS Constitution	$ 16.00
USSC-208	Mother's Day '76	$ 20.00
USSC-263	July 4, 1976	$ 20.00
USSC-264	Easter '76	$ 20.00

MAIL BID

We've gotten to where we really look forward to the Mail Bid just to see what you think the premium bars are worth. We try to save some real "goodies" for the mail bid and in this one we've got some well recognized rarities and some highly underrated bars. Here's another chance to get some bargains, or at least some top bars! Results of the last mail bid were:

LOT#1	GDM-2	$51.00	LOT#6	LOM-1	No Bids Received
LOT#2	AM-3	$35.00	LOT#7	MEM-106	$35.00
LOT#3	CEM-56	$37.50	LOT#8	TM-4	$40.00
LOT#4	GCM-10	$60.00	LOT#9	TSM Set	No Bids Received
LOT#5	MAD-218	$55.00	LOT#10	WWM-95	No Bids Received

TERMS - Bids will be accepted through January 4th. Postage and insurance will be added to all successful bids. Layaway terms are available if the total of your successful bids exceeds your cash on hand, so don't let that hold you back. Dollar amounts in parantheses ( ) are estimated values. You may bid higher or lower. All lots will be sold to the highest bidder.

1. BUFFALO SILVER INGOT (BISL-1B) Shalom blue enamel SN - a very underrated and tough bar to find! ($50)

2. GARDEN STATE MINT (GSM-3) Energy Crisis '73-'74 - Toughest of the GSM bars - always popular and expensive. ($45)

3. WORLD WIDE MINT (WWM-95) Northwest Georgia Bank - a very tough regional bar with a 1979 catalogue value of $50 ($80)

4. HAMILTON MINT (HAM-90) Poseidon '74 - a special issue for a fraternal group. Very few available to art bar hobbyists! ($50)

5. HAMILTON MINT (HAM-39) Father's Day '77 - an unlisted bar among the difficult late Hamilton issues. You should be able to get a bargain here! ($50)

6. NORMARK MINT (WWM-96) Gasparilla '76 - toughest of the highly popular Gasparilla set. We expect some spirited bidding on this one! ($65)

Lots 7-10 feature bars from the elusive "Missions of California" set by the El Dorado Mint. The 1979 Cat. states that although the set had a projected mintage of 5000 bars, it is believed that very few were issued. These are the first we've seen in two years, so we believe it. We're estimating value at $40, but that could be low.

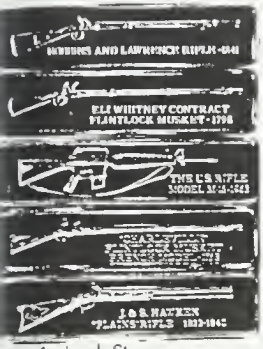
7. EL DORADO MINT (EDM-3) San Buenaventura ($40)

8. EL DORADO MINT (EDM-5) San Diego de Alcala ($40)

9. EL DORADO MINT (EDM-8) San Fernando Rey de Espana ($40)

10. EL DORADO MINT (EDM-9) San Gabriel Arcangel ($40)

LINCOLN MINT



Actual Shape
1 oz Sterling

MTB

ALHAMBRA MINT

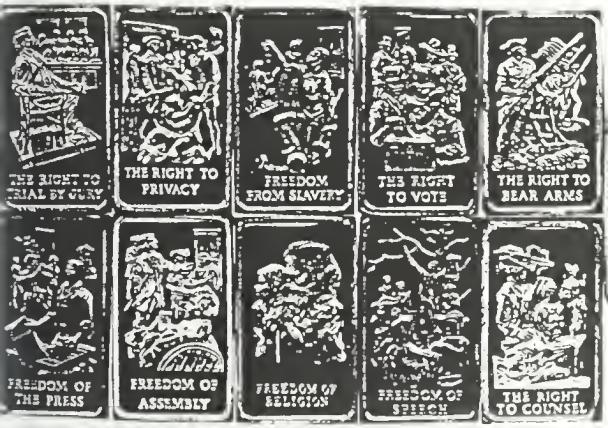
DOYLE'S COIN PALACE

(Golden State Mint)

PERU

WITTENAUER MINT - 1973

1000 grains (1 oz.) .999 silver
20 8 ozs total
SH # 118



TYPICAL

REVERSE

ODDS & ENDS

WITTENAUER MINT - 1973 - The Ten Freedoms - 10 100 grain .999 Ingots featuring all the rights that are near and dear to us. Quality comparable to Mt. Everest Cameo Proofs. Cased in a wall display frame with blue vevlet backing - SN#118. Beautiful! Over 20 ounces of pure silver - $400.00 (see photos)

LINCOLN MINT

LIN-11	Robbins-Lawrence Rifle	LIN-13	Hawkens Plains Rifle
LIN-18	Charleville Flintlock	LIN-21	Whitney Flintlock
LIN-21	M16A1 Rifle	LIN-33	Gatling Gun
LIN-35	Rappahannock Forge Pistol		

$20 each - all for $126 ($189)

COLONY COIN SHOP (Misc. Page 176)

JFK's 10th Anniversary - Gold Plated MTG 200 SPECIAL $30.00

ARGOR S.A. CHIASSO 3 Ounce Commercial (Page 182) $40.00

AMERICAN PACIFIC MINT

Home Juice - 1500 - Lowest Price EVER! $18.00 each

ALHAMBRA MINT - Lowe's Rare Coins - Denver $16.00

DOYLE'S COIN PALACE - Catalina Coins & Collectibles $18.00

BANCO MINERO DE PERU - Commercial Bar - serially numbered $18.00

M*T*B - World Trade Center $16.00

SILVER CREATIONS LIMITED

SCL-9 Skylab I $25.00

MT. EVEREST MINT

MEM-104 Father's Day '74 $ 20.00

E.J.ALEO

EJA 1-3	Watergate (Vertical) Cased-Matched	$ 75.00
EJA 16-18	Apollo-Soyuz Cased-Matched	$ 95.00

CRABTREE MINT

CT-7	Picatinny Arsenal	$ 30.00
CT-32	U.S. Army R&D RARE!	$ 50.00

HAMILTON MINT

HAM-94G Christmas Trio - Gold Plated - Cased $ 22.50

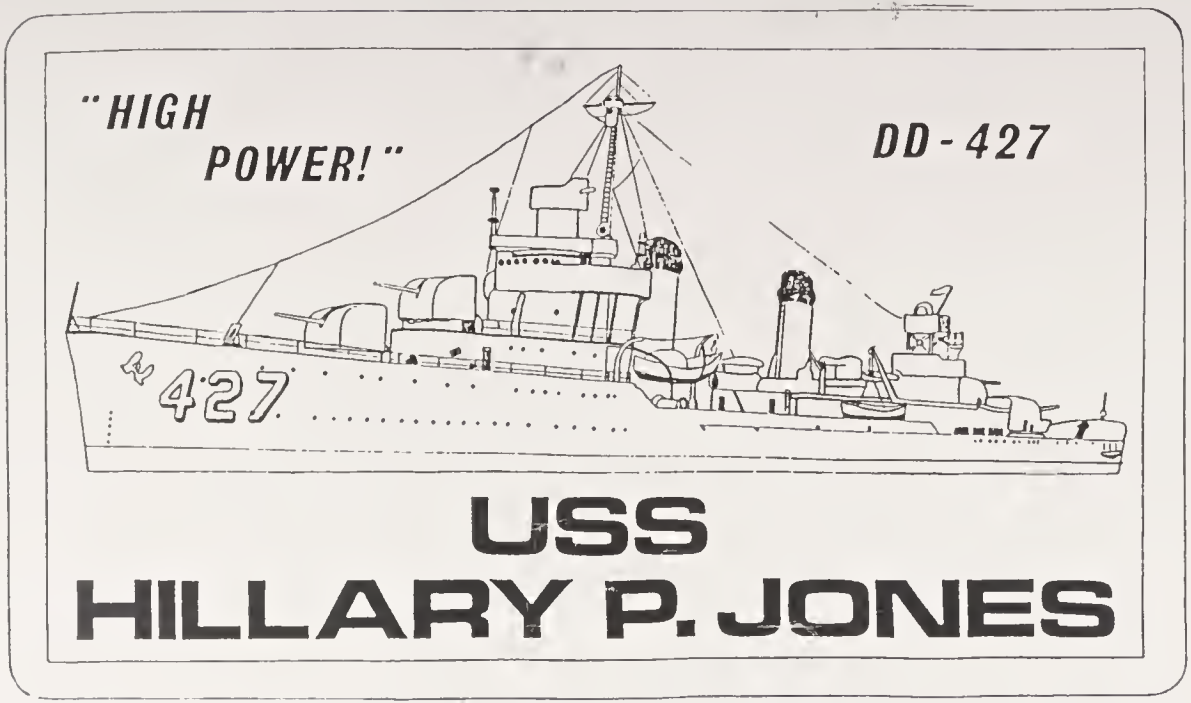
USS NIMITZ

Production on the USS Nimitz bar has been moved back again due to the army keeping me too busy to get things straight. I'm looking at a release date of March 1st now and, this time, I plan to keep it. Please be patient!

USS HILLARY P. JONES

No warship is as great as the one you serve on! While we're restricted to striking a very few ships for our series, there're hundreds of U.S. Navy ships that are near and dear to the men and women who've served on them. One of our customers served on the USS Hillary P. Jones during World War II and after seeing our bars, developed a yen to see his ship on silver. The end result is a limited edition of 200 serially numbered silver (only) bars which will be available about February 1st. Artwork has been sent in and the bars will definitely be available subject to engraving and minting schedules. As part of the arrangement, we are retaining a limited number of bars for our customers at $25.00 each. We will be able to match serial numbers for our regular "WGW" series collectors, but we would appreciate it if you would get your orders in early so we know which serial numbers to pull.

SPECIAL CUSTOMER ISSUE!!



DETAILS PG. 14